

# **KDHE Proposes to Amend the Kansas Radiation Protection Regulations**

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The Bureau of Air and Radiation of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, is proposing to amend the Kansas Radiation Protection Regulations (KRPR). The purpose of this is to ensure all the KRPRs are consistent with other state's regulations and current industry standards, and are compatible with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations. The proposed KRPRs reduce the regulatory burden for activities of low risk particularly in the medical field. In response to heightened concerns regarding homeland security, the regulations increase the security and accountability of radioactive materials.

These regulations are for the use of all radiation, radiation machines, and radioactive materials to ensure the maximum protection of the public health and the maximum safety to all persons at, or in the vicinity of, the place of use, storage, or disposal of sources of radiation. These regulations are intended to be consistent with the best use of radiation machines and radioactive materials, and to encourage the constructive uses of radiation.

The regulations apply to all persons who receive, possess, use, transfer, own or acquire any source of radiation, except those reserved for regulation by the NRC. The provisions of these regulations do not limit the exposure of patients to radiation for the purpose of diagnosis or therapy, by persons licensed to practice one or more of the healing arts, dentistry or podiatry.

In 1965, the state of Kansas entered into an agreement with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to regulate radioactive materials under the provisions of the federal Atomic Energy Act. Kansas has operated as an agreement state since that time. The regulated community in Kansas includes 321 facilities licensed to use radioactive materials, 2,447 facilities registered to use x-ray equipment, and 316 facilities using radioactive materials under general licenses. These facilities include industrial operations, research labs, medical and dental facilities, and security screening operations. In order to assure appropriate protection of the public and operators, radiation exposures must be kept as low as reasonably achievable. The role of the Radiation Control Program is to provide the appropriate oversight and regulation.

KDHE will conduct a public hearing on Sept. 23 at 2:00 p.m., in the 5th Floor Conference Room, room 530, Curtis State Office Building, 1000 SW Jackson, Topeka, KS, to consider the adoption of the proposed revocations, amendments, and new regulations. All interested parties may submit written comments prior to 5:00 p.m. on the day of the hearing to Tom Conley, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Air and Radiation, 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 310, Topeka, Kan., 66612, or by fax to (785) 296-0984, or by e-mail to [tconley@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:tconley@kdhe.state.ks.us). The proposed regulations, public hearing notice and regulatory impact statement can be accessed on the KDHE Web site at [www.kdheks.gov](http://www.kdheks.gov).